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Amazonian Reptiles

An exaggerated tale of the reptiles of the Upper Amazon. Excepted from the introduction of "The Rivers Ran East," published in 1953.

> "I respectfully differ with Clark on the length of the anaconda snake. The one he measured on the Morona River was 26 feet 8 and one-half inches. That is much too conservative. The Peruvian skin traders who bring thousands a year to Iquitos tell me that anacondas quite often measure up to forty feet. The Englishman, Colonel P. H. Fawcett, (who was lost while searching for a ruined city he believed to be Atlantis) once killed an anaconda that measured at sixty-five feet. In the Beni Swamps of Madre de Dios, Fawcett saw snake tracks which led him to estimate their length up to eighty feet. In the Beni also, the Colonel saw an animal he believed might be Diplodocus, the eighty-foot reptile of twenty-five tons. This animal he though might still be in existence as it was an eater of aquatic plants. which grow profusely in this region. The Diplodocus story is confirmed by many of the tribes east of the Ucayali, a region covered by Clark (Clark 1953)."

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